

Amal, Palestinians enter truce

BEIRUT (R) — Palestinian and Shi'ite officials said on Wednesday they had agreed on a truce to halt battles around Palestinian camps in South Lebanon and more talks would be held on a comprehensive peace accord. "A ceasefire was agreed in the first phase but there will be further meetings," Assem Qanso, leader of Lebanon's Baath Party, told reporters. He was speaking after talks between officials of pro-Syrian political parties and the warring Shi'ite Amal militia and Palestinian groups on a Syrian-sponsored peace pact. Political sources told Reuters the two sides still disagreed about the withdrawal of around 3,000 Palestinians from hilltops east of the southern port of Sidon. Syria sponsored the peace pact last month to end the "camps war" in which 2,500 people have been killed in the past three years. But fighting broke out east of Sidon on Friday, shattering hopes of its implementation. The pact provided for the withdrawal of Palestinian fighters from areas they captured last November and an end to Amal sieges of Palestinian camps in Beirut and the south. The latest fighting erupted when Palestinians took control of two hilltop villages overlooking 'Ain Al Hilweh camp.

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Vorontsov holds talks in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — The Soviet Union's first deputy foreign minister arrived Wednesday for talks that dealt largely with peace efforts in the Middle East's two major conflicts, the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Iran-Iraq war. Immediately after Yuli Vorontsov arrived for a two-day official visit, he met with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid. He was to confer Wednesday night with Osama Al Bazz, top political aide to President Hosni Mubarak, and with Mr. Mubarak himself on Thursday. Mr. Abdul Meguid told reporters his hour-long meeting with Mr. Vorontsov "offered an opportunity to exchange views on an international conference on (Arab-Israeli) peace and the situation in the Gulf."

Weizman may be invited to Moscow

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli cabinet minister Ezer Weizman will be invited to Moscow to meet top Soviet leaders, Israeli newspapers reported on Wednesday. "If I get an invitation, I'll gladly go," Mr. Weizman told Reuters. He would neither confirm nor deny the reports. The Jerusalem Post reported that Mr. Weizman might be invited for celebrations in Moscow of the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Revolution, which will be attended by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. Israeli Communist Party members said they were exploring the possibility of a meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Weizman in Moscow, the paper reported.

Iranian envoy visits Syria

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's deputy prime minister flew to Syria Wednesday to discuss regional and international developments, Tehran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. It said Ali Reza Moayyer, deputy prime minister for political affairs, was accompanied by other Iranian officials, but did not name them. His trip came after Syria announced it would attend the emergency Arab summit meeting scheduled for Nov. 8 in Amman.

M'bou loses votes; final poll on Friday

PARIS (AP) — The race for UNESCO's new director-general tightened Wednesday with Amadou Mahtar M'bou, seeking an unpreceded third term, losing some backing in the fourth round of balloting and Spanish candidate Federico Mayor picking up some support. Neither candidate obtained a winning majority. The rules of the 50-member executive board call for a final fifth ballot runoff between the two leading candidates to be held Friday. The candidate with the most votes in the runoff will be declared the winner. In case of a tie, the board president pulls a name from a hat.

Blast rocks U.S. mission in Barcelona

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — Four people were injured in a bomb explosion at the U.S. consulate in Barcelona on Wednesday, a government spokeswoman said. The U.S. embassy in Madrid said a small device apparently exploded in the consulate's outside stairwell, causing some damage to doors. Police put the number of injured at between four and six.

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Iraq buries its dead children with vow to avenge missile strike

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Thousands took part in a funeral march on Wednesday, some calling for vengeance, past the ruins of a Baghdad primary school blasted by an Iranian missile that killed 36 people the day before.

At least 30 of the dead were young pupils at the Martyr's Place school and children from throughout Baghdad and the suburbs joined marchers carrying their coffins.

The ruling party newspaper Al Thawra declared that "the hour for revenge has come..."

At least three adults also died in Tuesday's attack and more than 200 people were wounded, almost all of them small pupils at the school, according to latest casualty figures released at Yarmouk Hospital.

The Iraqi capital, target of 15 missile strikes this year but otherwise well insulated from the war-front carnage of the Iran-Iraq war, bore a sombre air.

Most schools were closed and parents kept their children at home for fear of another attack.

Baghdad Radio changed programmes to broadcast martial music, national songs and live coverage from the streets where demonstrations were held to condemn the Iranian attack.

The Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadsiyah said the missile strike marked a decisive turning point in the Iran-Iraq war.

"It has given us complete legitimacy in the eyes of the world to use all that we have at hand in terms of lethal weapons to strike at every target we can reach... and there are no targets inside Iran that we cannot reach."

Iran said the missile had been aimed at the defence ministry which is the other side of the city.

A military communiqué said 29 of the slain were students aged between six and 11.

Implementing Security Council Resolution 598 in full so that the war would stop and the Gulf region be free again of foreign intervention which could entail dangerous situation leading to a return of the policy of polarisation.

The King explained the developments in the Arab-Israeli problem and the current efforts for arriving at a lasting settlement on the basis of exchanging land for peace.

The two sides agreed in the meeting on the need for holding an international conference under United Nations auspices to implement U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

On the Iran-Iraq conflict, the two sides stressed the need of

Both sides called on Iran to respond favourably to calls of

Later Wednesday, King Hussein visited the Finnish prime minister Helsinki and met with its speaker and members of parliament. The speaker made a speech welcoming the King and praising the existing parliamentary cooperation between Jordan and Finland through the exchange of visits by parliamentarians.

King Hussein hoped that his visit would help promote the friendly relations between Finland and Jordan.

(Continued on page 3)

2 scientists share Nobel Physics Prize; 3 win honours in chemistry

STOCKHOLM (R) — Two Swiss-based scientists shared the Nobel Physics Prize on Wednesday for work that could revolutionize computer technology and the chemistry award went to two Americans and a Frenchman whose research could improve the environment.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences gave the \$340,000 physics prize to Georg Bednorz of West Germany and Switzerland's Alex Mueller for discovering a new ceramic material which can conduct electricity with no resistance — a so-called superconductor.

Jean-Marie Lehn of France and Americans Donald Cram and Charles Pedersen — the latter one of the oldest-ever laureates at 83 — won the chemistry prize for opening up development of non-toxic industrial chemicals and new energy sources.

"The prize goes to a very important discovery in chemistry. Their work deals with imitating life with simpler molecules," said academy member Professor Bo Malmstrom.

Academy member Professor Erik Karlsdotter said the work of Mr. Bednorz and Mr. Mueller at the IBM research laboratories in Zurich could be vital for the development of computer memory.

Mr. Bednorz, 37, and Mr. Mueller, 60, developed a new ceramic-like material based on oxygen and copper capable of conducting an electrical current without resistance at minus 238 degrees Centigrade — 12 degrees higher than anything previously known.

Mr. Malmstrom said the chemistry prize highlighted an area of research with revolutionary implications for the future of mankind.

"Their work points the way to a new era in energy technology, a limitless energy supply from the sun," he said.

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Mr. Malmstrom said their molecular research had enabled them to produce hydrogen gas from sunlight in the laboratory.

Experimental cars running on the gas has already been produced in the United States.

Iranians — as it did for 26 survivors of the minefield Iran Aja last month.

The government spokesman said: "Oman has again offered to act as mediator. We expected the handover today but it has been postponed. We don't know yet when it will take place. We anticipate that it will follow the same pattern as the previous one."

"We are continuing to make arrangements to hand over four detainees," said a U.S. source, asking not to be identified. "The day for the handover has not been fixed. It is a question of

when."

In an interview with Algerian Television, Mr. Abu Odeh said he discussed with President Benjedid prospects and preparations for the summit. Mr. Abu Odeh said he conveyed to Mr. Benjedid the King's greetings and "the high hopes His Majesty pins on Algerian participation in the summit conference."

Algeria enjoys a high reputation for its positive stands over Arab causes, and the country's presence in the summit will be very effective in the workings of the conference, Mr. Abu Odeh said.

Mr. Abu Odeh returned home later Wednesday from Algeria.

In Nouakchott, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali was expected to meet with Mauritanian President Maouya Ould Sidi Ahmad Taya to deliver the invitation.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, in a dispatch from Mogadishu, quoted President Siad Barre as saying that he would lead his country's delegation to the summit. Mr. Siad Barre also praised the King's efforts at "uniting Arab ranks and his ability to overcome challenges facing the Arab Nation, particularly at this stage," Petra reported.

Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, who received the summit invitation on Tuesday from Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Al Duder, will head the Lebanese delegation to the summit conference, Petra said. Mr. Duder returned home on Wednesday after delivering the message. In a statement to Petra, Mr. Duder said he also conveyed the King's greetings to the Lebanese president.

Petra quoted Mr. Duder as saying that President Gemayel accepted the invitation.

Assad meets Klibi

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi met in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and discussed with him issues related to the gathering, the Syrian news agency (SANA) reported.

SANA said Mr. Assad and Mr. Klibi also discussed the situation in the Arab World.

Mr. Klibi arrived in Damascus Tuesday after a visit to Iraq. On arrival, he said Syria had a leading role in our area, in particular the ongoing preparations for the Arab summit.

The now-dormant Oman-South Yemen conflict dates back to the early 1970s, when Aden-backed guerrillas controlled the border province of Dhofar. The Omanis in subsequent years snuffed out the rebels and regained control of Dhofar. But relations between Oman and its Soviet-supported neighbour remained uneasy.

Oman and South Yemen announced earlier this year they would soon open embassies in each other's countries and are currently holding talks to resolve a long-standing border dispute.

Al Siyassa said each side had blamed the other for the incident but quick mediation by United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan prevented it developing.

The government-owned press on Wednesday highlighted a visit to Oman the previous day by South Yemen Justice Minister Abdul Wasei Abdurrahim.

The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Siyassa said Oman forces opened fire on a Yemeni patrol on Sunday, killing eight men, after it inadvertently strayed eight kilometers into Omani territory.

The spokesman said he had no information on Omani casualties in the clash which happened in a remote area of Oman's southern Dhofar province.

But he said the incident had not affected recently restored diplomatic links between Muscat and Aden. "There was no change at all in relations between the two countries," he said.

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Rome will not withdraw ships from Gulf to meet Kurdish kidnappers' demands

ROME (Agencies) — Premier Giovanni Goria indicated Tuesday that Italy has no intention of withdrawing its warships from the Gulf to meet the demands of pro-Iranian Kurds who kidnapped three Italian engineers.

Italian television, meanwhile, reported that a Paris-based representative of the Kurdish group pledged that the Italians were safe and would eventually be released.

Mr. Goria said the government's principal objective was the safeguarding of human life.

Asked by reporters if Italy would consider pulling back the task force in light of the kidnappings, Mr. Goria said "let's not confuse things that have nothing to do with each other. There is no connection."

Mr. Goria did not elaborate.

Mr. Goria made a similar statement later in an interview broadcast on state-run RAI television Tuesday night, adding "our ships are not in the Gulf to make war, nor to take the side of one or the other combatants. We are in a position of absolute neutrality, defending our national interests."

He said it was "necessary" to contact the Kurdish captors to explain to these men that they should return to civilised rules, that they should release the hostages, the RAI report said.

RAI quoted the Kurdish representative as saying the Italians were seized because they hadn't sought authorisation from the PUK to work in the area, and also as a sign of protest against Western "indifference" to air raids on Kurdish targets.

The Italian News Agency

parts for Hawk anti-aircraft batteries.

"I was startled," Adm. Crowe told the Iran-contra committee in a closed-door session on June 18 in describing his reaction on first learning of the shipments of U.S. arms to Iran — months after they got underway in Feb 1986.

Adm. Crowe said he confronted Mr. Weinberger about the sales in late May or early July last year after one of his assistants had attended a meeting in which the

subject came up.

"I was interested in ... why I had not been kept informed, and he (Mr. Weinberger) told me that he had known about it for some time and that he had opposed it and that the decision had been made by the president," the JCS chairman said.

"It was his understanding that a conscious decision had been made that it was not a military matter so it was not necessary to bring it in the military," he said.

The Italian News Agency

U.S. military chief not informed of Iran sales

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan cut out his top military advisers from the U.S. arms sales to Iran and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) found out about some aspects in news accounts, testimony has said.

Admiral William Crowe, JCS chairman since 1985, said Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger also failed to mention details of the 1985-1986 sale of Tow anti-tank weapons and spare

parts for Hawk anti-aircraft batteries.

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ANSO quoted the same Kurdish representative as saying, "Italian arms are being used in Iraq against the Kurdish population and Kurdish guerrillas."

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry said Italian officials met here with Iraqi Ambassador Kadim Al Sahaf and asked for "every possible collaboration on the part of authorities in Baghdad to throw light on the affair."

The Rome government came under heavy fire on Tuesday for keeping the kidnapping of Italians secret until the news emerged in Beirut.

The delay over revealing the abductions drew angry protests from opposition parties. It created new difficulties for Mr. Goria, whose five-party government has repeatedly been buffeted by problems since July.

The neo-fascist MSI party said in a parliamentary question for Mr. Goria that the government must urgently clarify the circumstances of the kidnappings, saying its "silence to parliament and therefore the Italian people ... (is) irresponsible and unprecedented."

Mario Capanna, a leader of the left-wing Proletarian Democracy Party, said Mr. Goria's silence about the kidnappings even during a parliamentary debate last week on the naval mission to the Gulf was "morally unacceptable, politically shortsighted and institutionally provocative."

He said the government had kept from parliament information vital for assessing the naval mission and called for the withdrawal of Italy's ships.

The man said "indirect contacts" were underway between the Italian government and the Kurds for release of the captives.

RAI quoted the Kurdish representative as saying the Italians were seized because they hadn't sought authorisation from the PUK to work in the area, and also as a sign of protest against Western "indifference" to air raids on Kurdish targets.

The Italian News Agency

Soviets join drive to oust Israel from U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Despite recent improving ties, the Soviet Union joined Tuesday in an unsuccessful Arab-led drive to oust Israel from the U.N. General Assembly.

Degrees voted 80 to 39, with 10 abstentions, for a Finnish motion that no action be taken on an Arab challenge to Israel's credentials.

Israel's delegate said he was disappointed by the Soviet support of the challenge.

"There is an apparent contradiction between the Soviet call to Israel to participate in an international conference under U.N. sponsorship and their vote to expel us from this very body," Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement.

The envoy was referring to Soviet support for a proposed international conference to be convened under U.N. auspices to resolve Arab-Israeli differences. He said the vote showed that Kremlin policy is lagging in some areas.

Mr. Gorbachev has said his country's lack of diplomatic relations with Israel, which the Kremlin severed during the 1967 Middle East war, was "not normal" and has endorsed some rapprochement.

The Soviet Union has granted more than 5,000 exit visas to Jews this year, compared to fewer than 1,000 last year. In addition, the first Soviet diplomatic delegation to visit Israel in 20 years has unexpectedly extended its stay.

Cultural ties have also been increasing.

The only other East Bloc countries supporting the Arab position were Cuba and East Germany. Yugoslavia and Romania supported Israel, and Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland stayed away during the voting.

Egypt, the only Arab state to make peace with Israel, voted in favour of Israel's continued seating.

The United States, which supported Israel, maintains a standard threat to quit the 159-member United Nations if the Jewish state is ousted.

The Soviet Union announced in August that it had agreed with Iran to cooperate on large-scale economic projects, prompting

U.S. panel considers charging for Gulf escort

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House of Representatives committee is weighing a proposal to charge oil tankers for U.S. military escort and mine-sweeping services in the Gulf, committee aides have said.

The user fee proposal would raise an estimated \$95 million annually by charging at least \$250,000 per voyage through the Gulf. It was expected to be approved Wednesday by the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, committee aides said.

The Reagan administration quickly stressed that U.S. policy in the Gulf had not changed.

Such a step would be a major escalation of Washington's posture in the region, where a U.S. naval force of some 30 ships are now under orders to protect only American shipping, including Kuwaiti tankers flying U.S. flags.

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AOSM marks Int'l Standardisation Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM) Wednesday marked the international day for standards and specifications with a special ceremony during which speeches were made reviewing efforts to unify standards and specifications of products in the Arab World.

AOSM Secretary General Mahdi Hannoush, in an address to the ceremony, pointed out his organisation's endeavours towards providing Arab states with modern methods and expertise to help unify specifications.

He also underlined the importance of unifying standards and specifications in the fields of industry, trade, and agriculture with the purpose of boosting production and exports.

Dr. Hannoush Tuesday issued a statement underlining the importance of the AOSM's work in strengthening Arab economy.

Since the establishment of the AOSM in 1968, Dr. Hannoush said, the organisation has been contributing towards the improvement of the Arab economy through coordinating standards of products in various Arab countries. The AOSM has been operating in the Arab World through its 33 different committees and

has been helping Arab states in laying unified standards for their different products. Dr. Hannoush noted.

Another speaker at Wednesday's ceremony was Mr. Ibrahim Qaqish, director of AOSM's specifications and standards department.

He said that unified standards are bound to boost development of trade and industry and open markets for the Arab countries' products abroad.

Mr. Qaqish said that the AOSM's work aims at raising the quality and volume of production and increasing the volume of trade between the Arab countries and between the Arab nation and other parts of the world.

The AOSM was set up as a specialised institution of the Arab League to operate in the field of economic, commercial and industrial cooperation. Its activity covers all fields related to the unification of technical terms and standard specifications for products such as food, clothes, fertilisers, building materials, oil, minerals, and electrical products.

It also deals with technical drawing and packaging, assists in the establishment of national bodies and collaborates with international organisations in the field.



AOSM secretary general (centre), Mahdi Hannoush Wednesday presides over a meeting to celebrate International Standardisation Day (Petra photo)

CAEU companies call for Arab support

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pan-Arab companies formed by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) ended a meeting in Amman Wednesday by issuing an appeal to Arab governments to back pan-Arab companies which aim at bolstering the Arab World's economy.

The meeting issued a statement in which the delegates urged Arab states to pay up their capitals in the joint companies formed by the CEAU to help them to pursue their operations and con-

tribute to the economic and social development of Arab states.

The statement urged Arab governments to promote projects which tend to benefit the Arab economic integration and to help pan-Arab companies to coordinate their work and carry out their projects.

The delegates represented the Arab Mining Company, the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances, the Arab Company for the Development of Animal Wealth and the Arab

Company for Industrial Development.

CAEU Secretary General Mahdi Al Obeidi, who opened the meeting underlined the need for pan-Arab companies to play a leading role in enhancing economic integration among Arab states.

In their final statement Wednesday the delegates said that they decided to hold their next meeting in Amman during the first half of July 1988.

Low-income families flock to UDD's Marka housing units

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With its large Pepsi factory and various other commercial buildings, garages and workshops, divided by the Amman-Zarqa highway and the main road from downtown to Zarqa, and exposed to sun and wind with barely a tree to supply shade, Marqa does not seem the most likely place for families to choose for their new homes.

But a new low-cost housing estate of the Urban Development Department (UDD), about one-half kilometre from both the highway and the commercial centre of Marqa, was sold out in no time.

A number of applicants even had to be turned away, says director of the monitoring and programming unit of UDD Nidal Kaish.

The UDD was established in 1980 to meet the need for inexpensive quality housing units and to relieve the severe housing shortage. Until late 1986, the UDD was part of the Amman Municipality. It has recently been incorporated into the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, as its responsibilities have been extended to cover the entire Kingdom as well as to facilitate financing.

"We take care to select sites close to centres and within easy reach of main roads, like the Marqa housing estate which is about ten minutes away from Marqa and near the Zarqa highway connecting it with both Amman and Zarqa," Mr. Kaish

said. to a recent UDD report. The study estimates that more than 300,000 people within the Greater Amman region live in deficient accommodations and lack essential services and that one third of those live in squatter areas.

In developing its approach to low-cost housing and the squatter problem, the UDD could draw on the experience gained by similar projects in developing countries, many of which had failed due to various reasons. The World Bank, who also contributes financially to UDD, has already helped implement more than 60 low-income housing projects.

The key to success with this type of low-cost/low-income housing schemes seems to lie with a few basic concepts and their adaptation to the local conditions and, perhaps most important, to the people's mentality. "Jordanian families are principally opposed to the idea of living in flats or apartments. They prefer their own house even if it has only two rooms," says UDD Engineer Lubna Abu Zahra. The Marqa site and service housing scheme, which is also where the UDD has its new headquarters, shows this concept is working.

"We take care to select sites close to centres and within easy reach of main roads, like the Marqa housing estate which is about ten minutes away from Marqa and near the Zarqa highway connecting it with both Amman and Zarqa," Mr. Kaish

said. The prospective owners were offered a choice between various types of plots. A so-called "B-type" plot, for instance, has two rooms and a WC and is built on a 150 square metre piece of land, while a "C" plot is the same size, but with only one room and a WC. There are also empty plots ("A" and "D" types) from 150 to 300 square metres. The larger ones were auctioned from a basic price of JD 10 to 13 per square metre.

All plots are connected to electricity, water and sewage systems and have access to the road network.

These alternatives were designed to give families of various sizes and levels of income a choice of appropriate accommodations. But the most important feature of the UDD's site and service scheme is the fact that the house can be extended both horizontally and vertically — at the owners' expense — by adding rooms and building up to three stories high. For owners of "C" and "D"-type plots, building material loans for JD 1,000 are available which enable them to build two rooms as soon as possible so they can move in and save rent money.

The average monthly income of the families ranges from JD 100 to 180, according to UDD statistics, but even families earning a minimum of JD 70 per month are accepted as buyers. Due to monthly instalments of only JD 20 to 40 spread over 15 to 18

years to repay the loan of about JD 4,000 for a plot and a minimal downpayment of five per cent, even those earning very low incomes are able to afford a house at their estate, says Ms. Abu Zahra.

It is possible to divert the ownership of the housing unit to another family member — normally the wife — if the applicant should become unable to meet the financial responsibilities, for instance due to unemployment, and if the other member provides the family's income. However, should a family become run into difficulties to pay the instalments over a prolonged period, the UDD will possibly together with the Welfare Department try to find a solution. If after two warnings and about one year, no solution is in sight, they will sue the concerned owner. From 1984 up to now, there have only been four legal cases in the Marqa estate, Ms. Abu Zahra added.

All plots available at the Marqa

housing project, including the coresches — a plot to accommodate a small shop plus a residential unit — were in great demand, Mr. Kakish said. The only units not yet completely sold are some shops for purely commercial use.

They will be auctioned off without a set price limit, and they are also the only ones UDD are

selling at a profit.

The government covers 30 per cent of the real cost for UDD's projects, while 29 per cent is contributed by the Housing Bank, 25 per cent by the World

Bank and 16 per cent by UDD, Ms. Abu Zahra said.

The Marqa housing project, altogether over 300 plots, was completed in 1985. By this time the infrastructure and services were provided and the families stated to move in — today, there are almost 3,000 inhabitants.

During the last two years, most houses have been expanded by their owners, painted and some faced with white limestone. Many families have decorated walls and windowsills with flowers and potted plants and some houses have small gardens. The paved streets are meticulously clean and the public footpaths between houses are lined with shrubs and flowerbeds.

Although the population density is relatively high, the estate gives by no means a crowded impression. According to UDD statistics, 3.5 persons on the average share one room, while for the Urban East Bank (UEB), the figure is only 2.6. The average size of household is 6.6 persons, which is slightly lower than that of the UEB with 6.8 persons.

A typical family in the Marqa

housing scheme can spend less than JD 150 per month, and their breadwinner is most likely a worker or unskilled labourer.

They would probably come from the poorer Eastern and Southern areas of Amman or from Zarqa or Ruseifa, and would have rented their former place, paying monthly rents of between JD 15

up to JD 40. They must be of

Jordanian nationality and must not earn more than JD 220 per month, Ms. Abu Zahra said.

After completion of the construction work by UDD at the end of 1985, the plots of the Marqa estate went very quickly, and a kind of computer-controlled lottery was used to make sure families were picked at random from the great number of applicants. The same system is used by the UDD whenever the number of applicants exceeds available plots in one of their projects. However, applicants turned down for one site will get priority in the next. There are sometimes waiting periods of up to two years, which is seen by many applicants as too long. But Ms. Abu Zahra explained that this criticism does not take into account that not a whole neighbourhood, including all the necessary infrastructure, is being built up at once.

Phase three of the UDD projects, started at the beginning of this year, is scheduled to be completed by 1982. It includes five upgrading projects and new sites at Aqaba, two upgrading projects and one upgrading and site and service scheme in Amman. Altogether, phase 3 will provide 2,000 new housing units and 5,000 upgraded units for a total of 44,000 beneficiaries, at a projected cost of JD 31 million. Additionally, probably 6,000 to 10,000 job opportunities will be created in connection with the projects.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Preparation for King Abdullah museum underway

AMMAN (Petra) — A team from Forum Humanum has completed preliminary surveys here on the home of the late King Abdullah, founder of the Kingdom, as a first step towards transforming it into a national museum. The team was assisted in the work by a number of teachers and students from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), according to Mr. Fath Samhouri from Forum Humanum. Mr. Samhouri said that not only JUST but also the University of Jordan, and Mu'tah University as well as other organisations would take part in executing the different stages of the project. The work will involve the history and engineering departments at various universities and other institutions, Mr. Samhouri added. The team involved in the work met Wednesday with Mr. Jamal Momani, the Ma'an governor, with whom they reviewed the progress of the work.

Arab Air Cargo opens meeting today

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of directors of the Arab Air Cargo today opens talks in Amman to study means of promoting the operations of the company, a joint Jordanian-Iraqi venture. Mr. Ghassan Radwan, Iraqi under-secretary of the ministry of transport and communications arrived in Amman Wednesday at the head of the Iraqi team to the meeting which will look into the company's technical and administrative issues.

Al Husseini Mosque under renovation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced Wednesday that restoration and renovation work is now going on at Al Husseini Mosque in downtown Amman. It called on worshippers to avoid going to the mosque for the Friday prayers.

King and Koivisto agree on urgent need for peace

(Continued from page 1)

tional handwoven cloth made by the people of Helsinki.

King Hussein made a speech in which he voiced his deep appreciation of the hospitality accorded to him and the Queen during the visit to Helsinki.

"We have been most impressed by what we have seen in the two days we have been here and by the well-planned manner in which you have provided the citizens of Helsinki with the amenities of modern life while maintaining the character of your historic landmarks and the atmosphere of

spaciousness," the King said.

Later at a special ceremony the King and Queen met with the heads of diplomatic missions in Helsinki.

Queen Noor, accompanied by Mrs. Koivisto visited the Helsinki Academy on Wednesday.

The Queen heard pieces of classic music and expressed hope that cooperation would be launched between the academy and the Jordanian National Music Conservatory, which was recently established in Amman by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

Mideast to figure high in U.S.-Soviet talks

(Continued from page 1)

the U.N. Security Council members towards implementing Resolution 598 of July 20 which calls for an immediate ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and negotiations to find a peaceful settlement to the seven-year-old conflict.

"We strongly support Security Council Resolution 598," he said. "It is a fair and balanced resolution that has been approved unanimously and therefore it should be adhered to and complied with. We are working with the other members of the Security Council to implement this resolution as speedily as possible and we call for enforcement measures to implement this resolution."

The Arab League's decision to convene an extraordinary Arab summit in Amman next month is a tribute to King Hussein's wisdom and policies and to his active and effective efforts," Mr. Suddarth said. "We hope that this summit will contribute to finding an immediate end to the Gulf war, to the reaching of a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to the establishment of peace in Lebanon."

On Israel's arbitrary measures against the Arab Palestinian people in the occupied territories, the American ambassador said: "First of all, we do consider the territory occupied in 1967 to be occupied territory and we support

to be in retaliation for Iraqi air raids on Iranian tanker traffic.

Iran concentrates on Kuwait, and sometimes Saudi-related vessels when choosing victims, accusing the two countries of siding with Iraq in the Gulf war.

Salvage executives, quoted by AP, said the Atlantic Peace was sailing empty to Kuwait when attacked about 1,000 metres from where the Saudi products carrier Lubritop B was raked by machinegun fire on Monday.

Shipping executives said Wednesday Iranian gunboats had been intercepting ships sailing into the Gulf, checking their cargoes and destinations. "They are back again intercepting vessels and have so far checked out two Japanese ones," said a Dubai-based officer, who monitors radio contacts in the waterway.

Iranians strafe Kuwait-bound tanker

(Continued from page 1)

logistics of where ships are at present."

Observers from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were expected to be present again to witness the transfer, as in the case of the Iran Ajr survivors and two bodies returned to Iran.

The Iranian attack on the Liberian-flag tanker Atlantic Peace occurred off Dubai on Wednesday and the 84,631-tonne tanker was not damaged in the attack just after midnight (20:55 GMT), according to regional shipping sources quoted by Western news agencies.

The attack on the Kuwait-bound tanker followed another on Monday on a Saudi-flag vessel. The Iranian strikes on neutral commercial shipping are believed

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Study shows increased spending on health, warns of growth in population

AMMAN (Petra) — A study on health care in Jordan has revealed that improved health services in the Kingdom over the past few years had led to a drop in the mortality rate by 50 per cent especially among children.

The study, compiled by Mr. Rateb Hinawi from the Jordanian Pharmacists Association (GPA), said that the improvement in health services was largely due to the Health Ministry's increase in its various contributions to the total health sector.

The study pointed out that the improvement in health services has led to an increase in the population growth in Jordan, now standing at 3.8 per cent, thus adding to the burdens on the government services in general and affecting the economic and health sectors in particular.

If the present rate of population growth is maintained, the study noted,

would double its size within the coming 18 years, in what is regarded as probably one of the highest rates of population growth world-wide.

This, it said, has contributed to the improvement of health for all citizens, and consequently led to the growing number of population.

According to the study, the Health Ministry's budget in 1985 amounted to JD 27 million, but due to an increase in the volume of health services, it rose to JD 31 million in 1986. The figure is double the budget of 1980.

In general, JD 80 million is being invested in health services and health projects in the Kingdom. The amount corresponds to 4.6 per cent of Jordan's gross national product, the study said.

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Bitter pill to swallow

THE U.S. appears to be getting a dose of its own medicine in the Gulf with revelations that the Iranians do possess the sophisticated Stinger missiles and did in fact make use of them against American helicopters in the Gulf last week. While the Pentagon denied the Iranian claim that one of its helicopters was downed, it kept a very meaningful silence over the Tehran statement that Stingers were in fact used in the confrontation.

The American Congress, which staunchly turned down requests for Stingers from Arab governments, Jordan and Bahrain included, should now be chewing its nails over reports that the same weapons that were denied to its friends in the region were being used against U.S. targets by the Iranians. The deadliest of Stinger attacks against American targets could yet be coming, and the fact remains that we haven't heard the last of the Stinger episode.

Adding insult to injury are intelligence reports in the Gulf that the Iranians may also be in possession of U.S.-made Maverick missiles, of the kind the U.S. administration removed from an arms package for Saudi Arabia under a compromise formula with Congress. In any event, the mere fact that the Iranians, who constitute one of the major threats the Arab nation has encountered in its history, are using the same kind of weapons that were denied to Arab states by the Americans is an open slap in the face. The strongest yet possibility is that the Iranians acquired the Stingers from Afghan rebels, who occupy a high place in American priorities and thus were "blessed" with the deadly weapon by Washington. So much for the U.S. Congress' feet-dragging over Stinger sales to Arab states and its strict conditions attached to the delivery of the missiles to Saudi Arabia. Washington seems to have overlooked the obvious; while in the case of Arab governments, the Americans did have every chance to ensure that the weapons did not fall into "unauthorised" hands, but everything goes with any rebel movement, whether in Afghanistan or in Africa. The pill becomes more bitter for the Americans with hints from Tehran that the revolutionary regime in Iran could have obtained the advanced weapons from a U.S. source. While one cannot but be sceptical over the Iranian claim that Tehran is manufacturing its own "copies" of Stingers, question marks remain over who could possibly provide the Iranians with the high technology needed for the venture.

The answer is anybody's guess. But in the whole episode lies yet another lesson for America and its strategists in the White House and the National Security Council. We can only hope this lesson will be well taken.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: An atrocious crime

SCORES of Iraqi children fell Tuesday as victims to Iran's malice and hatred. Their souls joined others before them — all innocent people — who have not provoked the Iranian attack nor did they realise that they were going to school for the last time in their life. All of a sudden the children were turned into a burning heap of bodies going up in flames and falling under the rubble of their school together with their desks, books and pencils. The attack proved once again the barbaric mentality of the Iranian leaders and their lust for killing. These rulers act like animals of prey eager to bring death to any living thing — children, women and old men. The missile attack on the Iraqi school was fired for the sake of quenching the lust of the Iranian rulers for killing and causing destruction to civilian centres. The attack provides another proof that the longer this war is allowed to last the more tragedies will be created, and the more disasters will befall the Islamic nation. This barbaric attack on the innocent children should bring the major capitals of the world to their senses and should move world organisations to act now and stop the conflict. Major world powers ought to stop their desire for exploiting poor nations and benefitting from their sufferings and tragedies, and ought to help bring an end to the conflict in our region. The death of the Iraqi children ought to bring to an end the death of the conscience of leaders of the world; and should prompt serious measures and concerted steps to stop the war. The death of the Iraqi children stands out as another witness of Iran's hostile attitude towards peace and its continued endeavour to kill all prospects for achieving peace. But the attack should place us all before our responsibilities and work in concert with all Arab states towards bringing an end to the tragedy.

Al Dustour: Iran kills children

THE Iranian missile which hit a children's school in Baghdad Tuesday killing and wounding scores of innocent people came to emphasise once again the barbaric nature of the Iranian rulers and to expose them further to the world at large. This barbaric action reflects the malice and hatred in the hearts and in the minds of the Tehran rulers against all Arab people and their children and women. It was one more piece of evidence, showing the vindictive character of the Iranian rulers who are bent on pursuing the killing of innocent people, and their disregard to any principles and norms. We are indeed powerless in finding the correct words for expressing our anger mixed with pain and our indignation at this barbaric and brutal action against the innocent children of Baghdad. This despicable crime has now opened the door wide for reprisals and retaliatory actions on the part of Iraq, thus inviting in more and more killing and destruction on both sides. The Iraqis have now vowed to retaliate and to strike hard at the Iranian cities because they were appalled at this heinous crime committed against their children. We are appalled at this situation and hope that world organisations will now make serious moves towards bringing this tragedy to an end. We condemn Iran's barbaric action and hope that the world community will now take speedy action for imposing peace on the Gulf region.

Jordan's economic adjustment policies:

Need for new rules

By Dr. FAYEZ TARAWNEH

The writer is economic adviser at the Prime Ministry. The following is based on a lecture he delivered recently to the Jordan-British Society in Amman:

THE SUBJECT of this discussion is the complex yet most pertinent and timely issue of adjustment policies in Jordan. Our aim is to reach a more profound understanding of the current challenges that face our economy and the controversial policies that could contribute towards improving its performance.

As an economist I find it imperative to confess at the outset, that the classical economic theory of automatic equilibrating adjustment mechanisms, will all its neat conditions and generalisations cannot be comfortably resorted to. Such theories are only applicable in a world of perfect competition — with all its wide and wild assumptions. Nowadays, the markets are imperfect, and the degree of imperfection increases with economic and social backwash.

In retrospect, Jordan has always had policies that preserved the essence of its free market economy in terms of property rights, ownership of the means of production, free mobility of such means; liberal foreign exchange, trade and banking systems; dynamic legislation and flexible fiscal and monetary policies, etc.

The high degree of linkages with neighbouring Arab countries is yet another manifestation of the openness of the Jordanian economy. Forty per cent of our labour force works in other Arab countries. Their remittances make up around one third of our receipts of foreign exchange. Our exports to Arab countries make up more than half of our domestic exports. One hundred per cent of our oil imports are from Arab countries. With such a high degree of interaction in both the labour and commodity markets it comes as a surprise to no one, that the Jordanian economy is sensitive, and as much as we hesitate to say it, vulnerable to economic conditions and developments in neighbouring countries. This should, in no way, be interpreted as a negative characteristic. Indeed, the booms that we enjoyed in the previous decade and the substantial economic and social developments that Jordan witnessed during that period were made possible by such an interaction. On the other hand, the economies of neighbouring countries had a lot to benefit from our skilled and high-

This is a general conclusion that can be derived from historical summation of events. One cannot deny that in the process, changes in the whole international economic order do occur, either sudden or gradual, that necessitate equal changes within the national economy. Such changes have actually occurred in the late seventies and early eighties in a number of developed and developing economies which were subjected to external shocks, the most important of which was the sudden and substantial increase in oil prices. Most of those countries embarked, either on their own, or through pressures exerted on them by international organisations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or

ly trained manpower which instantaneously filled the gap in their manpower needs required for their rapid progress. So it has been a relationship with mutual benefits for both parties. But one should realise that in addition to the positive effects that were experienced in periods of boom and prosperity in the region, there are costs inflicted on us during periods of regional recession which in fact has a multiplier effect on Jordan.

Since 1982, the Jordanian economy has witnessed what some may call a slowdown and others a recession in its economic performance — manifested in particular in the rates of growth.

Since then, all efforts have been concentrated on curbing recession and stabilising the economy, in order to minimise the damages and to maximise the momentum for a new takeoff. And although not all of these efforts could be described as effective, yet many had actually intercepted the events and enabled our economy to maintain its relative position in the international classification (though below our expectations and our historical performance in absolute terms). But in general, our ability to narrow down the trade deficit, to keep a stable balance of payments, to control inflation and exchange rate, to keep the debt-service ratio within its safe borders and to achieve positive real rates of growth, all these factors are our source and data for optimism. Yet this is not enough as we realise that we cannot keep struggling with changes imposed on us. The time has come to reduce the degree of vulnerability and to create a systematic and well advanced set of rules and policies that can deal with changes from within and from without.

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to certain exigencies — for example, protective measures extended to local production against unfair international competition due to subsidies or dumping prices — in this case, the economy is adapting to a new environment even at the expense of efficiency at a certain period of time, and between the other set of policies that are directed towards adjusting the whole processes of development in the medium and long terms to increase efficiency, and to deepen the economic and social development.

The major adjustment policies that the government is currently undertaking include:

Adjustment policies directed towards the labour market that is currently facing structural unemployment as a result of the recession in the Gulf countries and the increased output of the educational system. Among the factors which are aggravating the labour market imbalance is the demog-

raphy structure where 50 per cent of the population is below 15 years of age.

The organisation of the labour market and the compatibility between the supply of labour and the demand for labour are the main concern of the new educational policies, the new cadre for Civil Service, and the government decisions on curbing unemployment.

In this connection, one can mention the most important provisions regarding these policies.

Concentration on vocational training:

— Strengthening and updating statistical data and information about the labour market and job opportunities;

— Distribution of specialisations among public and private sector colleges in conformity with development needs;

— Rehabilitation of university graduates;

— Priority in employment for Jordanians as against foreigners in the labour market;

— Coordination with Arab countries to maximise the absorption of Jordanian labour force in Arab markets.

Institutional adjustment strategies to increase economic and administrative efficiencies.

In this regard:

— The privatisation of certain public sector institutions in the form of gradual transformation of these institutions into companies owned entirely by the public sector, and then opened to public shareholding. There is now a standing committee presided over by the prime minister to study each individual case to make sure that such transformation is not directed towards interest groups and will not compromise on certain social services.

— Incentives for merges and amalgamations between companies, either similar in nature or complementary in production, with the objective of enlarging their institutional base, increasing their productive capacities, reducing administration costs, and increasing their efficiency of competition.

— An overall administrative reform, and in particular a new institutional linkages of public sector departments. In this regard undertakings include:

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Institutional adjustment strategies to increase economic and administrative efficiencies.

In this regard:

— The privatisation of certain public sector institutions in the form of gradual transformation of these institutions into companies owned entirely by the public sector, and then opened to public shareholding. There is now a standing committee presided over by the prime minister to study each individual case to make sure that such transformation is not directed towards interest groups and will not compromise on certain social services.

— Incentives for merges and amalgamations between companies, either similar in nature or complementary in production, with the objective of enlarging their institutional base, increasing their productive capacities, reducing administration costs, and increasing their efficiency of competition.

— An overall administrative reform, and in particular a new institutional linkages of public sector departments. In this regard undertakings include:

Adjustment policies directed towards the labour market that is currently facing structural unemployment as a result of the recession in the Gulf countries and the increased output of the educational system. Among the factors which are aggravating the labour market imbalance is the demog-

raphy structure where 50 per cent of the population is below 15 years of age.

The organisation of the labour market and the compatibility between the supply of labour and the demand for labour are the main concern of the new educational policies, the new cadre for Civil Service, and the government decisions on curbing unemployment.

In this connection, one can mention the most important provisions regarding these policies.

Concentration on vocational training:

— Strengthening and updating statistical data and information about the labour market and job opportunities;

— Distribution of specialisations among public and private sector colleges in conformity with development needs;

— Rehabilitation of university graduates;

— Priority in employment for Jordanians as against foreigners in the labour market;

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The role of the mass media in national development

By Chen C. Chimutengwende

IT WAS the government of Ghana which in a statement in 1965 defined the role of the mass media in national development as one of "collective stimulator, educator and organiser of the people." It was then Frantz Fanon who, after studying Algerian development once stated that, "the people must know where they are going and why a specific course has been embarked on. The politician must realise that the future will remain dim as long as people's consciousness remains dim and incomplete."

The mass media have long been recognised in developing countries as essential auxiliary means of modern construction, social and cultural development. They are an important means of social control and the social process. Their ideological and socialisation functions are continuously being defined and perfected in developing countries as one of the indispensable factors in the mobilisation of the general population for programmes of national development. In the political process, the media are considered to be one of those sensitive and strategic sectors of society and this is why whenever there is a coup, after the presidential palace the next item to be captured are the mass media especially the broadcasting services.

Very often when people talk or write about "freedom of the press," they do not understand that the press does not operate outside the socio-economic system. It is part and parcel of the system. It is a social institution.

It has to be owned and run by human beings who have ideas, attitudes, vested interests and connections of all kind with the rest of society and who are not above the law and other socio-economic pressures of society. As Ralph Miliband said, even in the so-called free or open societies of advanced capitalism, the mass media are only independent from direct state dictatorship and control, but not free from legal and other official restraints and pressures, nor from the ideology of the main centres of power. Their overwhelming bias is always towards the "burgeois consensus" when it comes to fundamental issues in that society. It is freedom within the system and in promotion of the system which the advocates of free press stand for in practice.

Even in industrialised western countries, the ever-growing and immeasurable power of the mass media is a controversial subject. There is an age-old and unresolved debate about the power and role of the media. The United States Vice-President Mr. Spiro T. Agnew, on Nov. 13, 1969, referring to journalists said: "This little group of men who not only enjoy right of instant rebuttal to every presidential address, but, more importantly, wield a free hand in selecting, presenting and interpreting the great issues in our nation."

Mr. Agnew went on in the same speech to say that, "they (journalists) decided what 40 to 50 million Americans will learn of the day's events in the nation and the world. We cannot measure this power and influence by the traditional democratic standards, for these men can create national issues overnight. They can make or break by their coverage and commentary, a moratorium on the war."

"They can elevate men from obscurity to national prominence within a week. They can reward some politicians with national exposure and ignore others — the American people would rightly not tolerate this concentration of power in government. It is not fair and relevant to question its concentration in the hands of a tiny, enclosed fraternity of privileged men elected by no one and enjoying a monopoly sanctioned and licensed by government."

The current controversial international debate on the proposed "New World Information and Communication Order" did not just arise out of the need to extend political independence to all other sectors of the nation including information and communication. It did not arise merely as part of the campaign by developing countries for the democratisation of international relations. The debate arose primarily out of the realisation of the importance and potential role of the media and the need to create or restructure or develop communication systems relevant and capable of playing a maximum role in national development and the consolidation of national independence.

UNESCO and other international organisations and agencies are engaged in projects and programmes aimed at creating or strengthening the communication

systems of Africa and other parts of the developing world. This, they are doing in cooperation with the governments and national institutions concerned. The states which have a fuller understanding of the importance and power of the media try to make certain that the establishment of media infrastructure, the acquisition of appropriate and up-to-date communication technology, the provision of professional training and advanced studies, and research work are given a special place among the priorities of national development.

Precisely how the media perform their role and the problems they may face vary from one country to another and from one period to another, because of the differences in the nature of the social and economic systems. The other determining factors are the level and type of development, and the question of stability and instability of the social and economic system. The level of usage of the media as an instrument for national development is not uniform throughout different countries, nor is the rate and the nature of development the same. Nevertheless, there are certain functions the media can perform to aid national development which are accepted or applicable in various societies or circumstances.

In certain developing countries the mass media are state owned and/or controlled, while in others both state or private owned may exist side by side, or the media may be partially state owned. But even in the states where they are privately owned, they are still required to support the national development programmes and in one way or another to act as instruments or agents of the state planned and guided social change. The media role or tasks may be assumed or included in the national plans irrespective of whether they are private or state owned or a combination of both.

In Africa and other parts of the Third World, communication policies are not usually well-defined. But what is clear is that the dominant mass media generally support the government and the national, political and developmental objectives as defined by the government. If they do not play that role, sooner or later that particular medium may be banned or get into trouble.

They may not be censored, but because of the need for "responsible media" which is a standard or role defined by the government, on some issues the

media have to practise self-censorship. This situation applies to all media whether private or state owned.

During the last two decades or so, the idea that "Third World" states must follow a government planned and guided developed process has gained almost unquestionable acceptance. Most African states are supposed to have their national development proceeding to state plans. They all have them. They may be adjusted according to the availability of resources or sometimes abandoned due to problems of instability and lack of continuity.

The media may be covered or not covered in the development plans. But generally it is believed that African states need a speedy, hence planned development process which is meant to be the best way of not wasting scarce resources. Since development is in the final analysis about people, it depends on the mass mobilisation of the general population if it is to be speedy and successful.

Mass mobilisation of the population demands the maximum use of all the means of communication. The mass media, as information multipliers can have a particularly crucial role to play in the mobilisation of human resources for African development. Unlike in industrialised western countries, the mass media in Africa have to emphasise their educational and agitational role rather than entertainment.

Planned and guided national development is a conscious effort on the part of the government and the people.

The government must communicate with the people and vice-versa. People in one region must know quickly what people in another region are doing. Those involved in one development project must be put in a position to appreciate the relevance, nature and purposes of the other projects being undertaken nationally.

Those who advocate a western model of the communication system for developing countries are not able to give a convincing answer to the question of media relevance to development. Even those developing countries which originally attempted to adopt the basic western economic and political theories and strategies of socio-economic development process had to abandon many of the basic western principles of evolutionary advancement, although they managed to remain

capitalist. The necessity to abandon some of the western approaches has tremendous implication for the organisation, structure, control and role of the media and it equally affects the content and pace of communication training, education and research. Adhering to the western evolutionary approach with an unplanned economy guided by the principles of private enterprise would produce a different communication media whose main purpose is not to serve the development information needs of the country as generally understood in the Third World. In such a western society, the government does not directly afford the necessary media infrastructure and appropriate communication technology which must be kept well-serviced and up-to-date. The state may also not be able to have enough and well-trained mass communication personnel at all levels. Communication infrastructure, appropriate and up-to-date media technology, and enough well-trained personnel are some of the major problems in Africa which affect the role of the mass media in national development.

The attitudes and the ideas of the people have to be attuned to the planned socio-economic development, if that process is to be possible without the use of unnecessary coercion at high human cost. The media can be effective in campaigns aimed at improving health, education, agricultural techniques, encouraging the growth of participant political institutions. Industrial production and expansion, focussing attention, widening horizons, feeding inter-personal channels, forming tastes, exposing corruption, attacking retrogressive and deviationist tendencies, and they can serve as an important national integrative agency.

People have to be motivated, informed, educated, persuaded and organised nationally for national development aimed at eliminating mass poverty, disease, ignorance and injustice. Modernising life patterns and changing irrational ideas and attitudes based on ignorance and many other practices not conducive to national development are educational tasks which can be effectively performed by the mass media as information multipliers in Africa. But such tasks are not profit making for the private sector. Their media would be for a different purpose and objective.

But for the media to be effective in their role, the development objectives must be clearly defined. They should be such that the general population, once it understands them, can be made to enthusiastically identify with them. The development objectives must be clearly aimed at satisfying the aspirations of the majority of the people and thus improving their material conditions. The process by which such goals can be realised has to be fully understood by the people otherwise it may not be possible to mobilise them or to get them to be in the process of developing the nation through persuasive education and mass communication.

Randa Habib's Corner

Old is beautiful

MOST of our beautiful old houses in Amman and other towns have already disappeared and were replaced by new stone or cement buildings. And this is a pity. Few still remain and we should do everything in our power to protect them.

First of all those houses should be listed by the government as "protected buildings" and their destruction or alteration should be forbidden. A special committee together with a trust fund should be created. The fund should be financed by the government and by concerned institutions and citizens who wish to help keep the old character of Amman alive. People who own old houses but need to sell their property should be given a subsidy in order to enable them to keep and restore those remaining architectural treasures.

Those houses could even be bought by the trust, which in return can either rent them to different organisations, or in the case of specially beautiful ones, turn them into museums.

Artisan shops and public libraries would fit perfectly in the old buildings. I am sure a careful study would come up with other similar projects.

Most important is that our old houses are preserved as they are witness to the creation and development of the city of Amman. Protecting them means protecting our own past.

A space garden project

By Nikolai Bulychev
and Naum Samarov

MOSCOW (APN) — The duration of man's stay in orbit depends on the available reserves of oxygen aboard a spaceship. This life-giving gas is today brought from Earth in cylinders by cargo ships. Meanwhile, the reduction of oxygen from carbon dioxide exhaled by the crew could be a more efficient method of replenishment.

Konstantin Tsiolkovsky was the first to recommend space gardens as a source of oxygen. Such gardens could be planted in a spaceship bay. Plants would consume carbon dioxide and release the vital oxygen.

Soviet practical experience in this field shows that plant-growing in weightlessness is far from simple. Plants cannot tolerate the absence of gravity. Weightlessness not only makes watering a problem, but also causes soil conversion into dust and unnatural development of the root system. This brings us back to the concept of a rotating greenhouse with artificial gravity sustained by centrifugal force. Such a greenhouse is essential if we intend to carry on with our programme for space industrialisation which provides for longer space flights and bigger crews.

A greenhouse must be made to rotate in order to simulate Earth conditions which alone can make a plant bear fruit. Our experiments with space gardens show that as long as the fruit-bearing stage remains unattainable, the "agricultural" reproduction cycle will be the harder to complete.

On the basis of what we have learned about flights in space we suggest that a garden be planted in a pressurised cylinder with ports ensuring the access of sunlight and walls lined with fertile soil. Centrifugal force generated inside the cylinder rotating at the calculated angular speed keeps the earth and moisture in it plastered to the walls.

Prasad already has become a "living god" for some Indians. He led a wordly life for his first 40 years, running a cloth business in New Delhi. It was in 1945 that he adopted the mask and the broom of the Jain faith.

During the visit, he was heard to murmur, "I am inviting death ... I am playing with it. I want to leave this world and get moksha" — salvation.

Prasad has lived only on 400 grammes of boiled water a day for the past 64 days, spokesman Muni said.

He has lost 25 kilograms and now weighs 30 kilograms.

"He is a skeleton, but a living one," said Dr. B.C. Bansal.

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- Equipment for traffic sign workshop

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Tenders Department
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P.O. Box 132
Amman - Jordan
Telex: 21969 AMCITY JO

Closing date for accepting bids is December 2, 1987, at 12:00 noon at the same address mentioned above.

Japanese rice wine maker tries new product — kiwi fruit wine

By Graham Earnshaw

Reuter

KUNISAKI, Japan — It's a rather unsightly wine, slightly sour on the palate with a stronger-than-usual bouquet.

But then you wouldn't expect a Japanese wine made from kiwi fruit to have an ordinary taste. For Sumaji Kayashima and his company, one of southwest Japan's most famous makers of traditional sake rice wine, producing such an exotic and unexpected drink is a risk.

Farmers near the town in Kyushu island who are growing more and more kiwi fruit hope it will be a hit with wine connoisseurs in Tokyo and perhaps the world.

Kayashima, fourth generation owner of the *Nishi-no-seki* (western checkpoint) sake company, sat cross-legged in a wooden pavilion next to the old rice fermenting sheds and sipped tentatively at his new product.

"We're not sure yet how it will be received," he said. "Grape wine is not sold as widely in Japan as in some other countries. But I think the prospects are good."

"This year we are producing 9,000 bottles, but sales have been

slow so far," he added.

The wine has a darkish hue reminiscent of a sauterne, and a taste which is a trifle too fruity for some.

The consensus of experienced drinkers at an impromptu tasting was that there were grape wines which would suffer by comparison.

Alcohol content is about on par with grape wines.

For the adventurous wine buff, the Japanese kiwi fruit brew could present a whole new realm to explore — and pontificate about.

Is it a wine to lay down? Will it improve with age? Will the 1987 vintage, the first, be viewed as a good year? Which end of the orchard produces kiwi fruit likely to result in wine of superior quality?

"We have been doing tests for about five years now and we've tried many types of fermentation, looking for the best combination," he said.

"This year we are producing

9,000 bottles, but sales have been

Jain revives ancient death ritual in India

By Dilip Ganguly
The Associated Press

SONEPAT, India — An 82-year-old man is slowly starving to death here, carrying out an ancient Jain religious rite and transforming this Indian town into a place of pilgrimage.

About 2,000 devotees come each day from across India to witness former businessman Badri Prasad's journey to death, inside a Jain temple on a busy downtown street.

On a wooden board in the second floor of the temple lies Prasad, who stopped eating Aug. 5 to attain *samadhi*, the voluntary embrace of death.

Visitors are ushered in for a brief look at the frail old man wrapped in a white cloth. Attendants sponge his body and whisper to him about what is happening.

Is it a rite to lay down? Will it improve with age? Will the 1987 vintage, the first, be viewed as a good year? Which end of the orchard produces kiwi fruit likely to result in wine of superior quality?

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CRICKET

Indians beat Kiwis

BANGALORE, India (R) — Champions India recovered from a disastrous start to collect their first points of the World Cup cricket tournament with an exciting 16-run win over New Zealand here on Wednesday.

India's outlook when they were 21 for three in the 10th over was grim. But a marvellous innings of 75 from 71 balls by the country's new batting star, Navjot Singh Sidhu, and a late flourish from Kapil Dev, who made 72 not out, lifted them to 252 for seven from their 50 overs.

In reply New Zealand, deprived of the services of John Wright, a 'flu victim, were unable to accelerate after a steady start and with their batsmen being picked off by the Indian spinners, finished on 236 for eight.

The win was badly needed by the Indians who started their title defence with a one-run defeat by Australia in Madras last Friday, a result which provoked local criticism both of their attitude and their ability.

The result also raised the question of the wisdom of putting the opposition in after winning the toss. New Zealand captain Jeff

Crowe followed this trend here but only once, when England beat West Indies, has the move worked. On the sixth other occasions the team put in has won.

To start with, though, Crowe's decision looked perfectly sound as India lost Sunil Gavaskar in the sixth over and Krishna Srikkanth in the eighth, both the openers failing to run outs.

Gavaskar went first, setting off from the bowler's end for a single in which his partner showed no interest. Then, with the score moved on to 16, Srikkanth was a little unlucky when he just failed to beat Ken Rutherford's direct hit from mid-wicket.

Dilip Vengsarkar was third out at 21, seeming to change his mind about a drive and chipping a simple catch back to Willie Watson, and it was now down to Sidhu and Mohammed Azharuddin, at 23 and 24 the young men of the side, to save India.

SQUASH

England topples Australia

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — England, spurred by a significant win from Lisa Opie, retained the women's team squash championship when they beat Australia 2-1 in the final on Wednesday.

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English number one Opie put her country on course for success when she beat Australia's former world champion Vicki Cardwell 9-3, 9-3, 6-9, 9-5 in a match regarded as the key to the whole contest.

Robyn Friday defeated Martine le Moignan 9-5, 9-0, 6-9, 9-5 to square the rubber but, in the decisive third match, Lucy Souter beat Sarah Fitzgerald 9-6, 9-3, 9-4 to clinch England's triumph.

Opie's victorious contribution was also satisfying for personal reasons: "I wanted to win the team title to wipe out the memories of being dropped for the semifinals and final of the 1985 team championship," she said.

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McEnroe considers suspension meaningless

LOS ANGELES (R) — John McEnroe, the Associated Press

LONDON — The battle for places in next summer's European Championship soccer finals between France and Norway has been rendered meaningless and the visitors intend to use the occasion to try out in some new faces. France will also have a new look side, following Patrick Battiston's decision to follow Michel Platini, Alain Giresse, Dominique Rocheteau and Jean Tigana into international retirement.

Defending champion France, last year's World Cup semifinalist, already is eliminated after a dismal qualifying tournament, along with Hungary. Other teams with a strong soccer tradition in danger of missing out on the finals include Denmark, Belgium and Poland, all of whom played in last year's World Cup in Mexico.

Spain, beaten finalist in the 1984 European Championship, will be hard to catch if it beats Austria in a group one match in San Francisco last week and Paris next month.

And after his second exhibition triumph in successive days on Monday, the American said: "This is meaningless. Do you think it really bothers me I'm not playing?"

"I don't lose a whole lot of sleep over not playing in San Francisco and Paris. I'm not going to sit here and tell you this is the worst thing that ever happened to me."

Taiwan leads bridge tourney

OCHO, RIOS, Jamaica (AP) — Taiwan zoomed into the lead after six matches of the Bermuda Bowl world contract bridge team championship round-robin Tuesday.

The teams that finish first and second in the 14-match round-robin will join the United States and Sweden in the semifinals, which start Monday.

Taiwan trounced Britain, 24-6, while the other three teams in contention were involved in close matches. The victory gave Taiwan 111 victory points, 9.5 more than runner-up Canada. Venezuela has 101 and Pakistan has 100.

Pakistan edged Brazil, 16-14, in the sixth match while Venezuela and Canada fought to a 15-15 tie.

Group three is the only one

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European soccer preview

Crucial night in qualifying competition

virtually decided, following France's unexpectedly quick elimination. The Soviet Union, four points clear at the top, is now almost untouchable.

Wednesday's game in Paris between France and Norway has been rendered meaningless and the visitors intend to use the occasion to try out in some new faces. France will also have a new look side, following Patrick Battiston's decision to follow Michel Platini, Alain Giresse, Dominique Rocheteau and Jean Tigana into international retirement.

"We'll give us a bit of everything. He is very industrious and can score as well," said Robson, who also brings back the Everton pair, Gary Stevens and Trevor Steven, in place of the injured Viv Anderson and Chris Waddle.

Yugoslavia, three points behind England but having played one game less, entertain Northern Ireland in Belgrade without six injured players including Milan Jankovic of Real Madrid and ace midfielder Dragan Stojkovic of Red Star Belgrade.

"We should and must win this game regardless of the missing players," said Yugoslav coach Ivica Osim.

Unless the Irish can produce one of their spirited away performances and grab at least a point, the group four showdown is expected to come on Nov. 11 when Yugoslavia hosts England.

Group five also stages a double-header with Greece, the surprise group leader, travelling to meet Hungary and Poland taking on The Netherlands.

While Hungary cannot longer enter the finals, Poland must win to preserve a realistic chance of staying in the competition.

But the injury-hit Poles will have to contend with Rudd Gullit and Marco Van Basten, the two Italian-based Dutch stars who return to international duty to boost their side's hopes.

Greece has nine points from six games going into Wednesday's series of matches, followed by

The Netherlands, with eight from five.

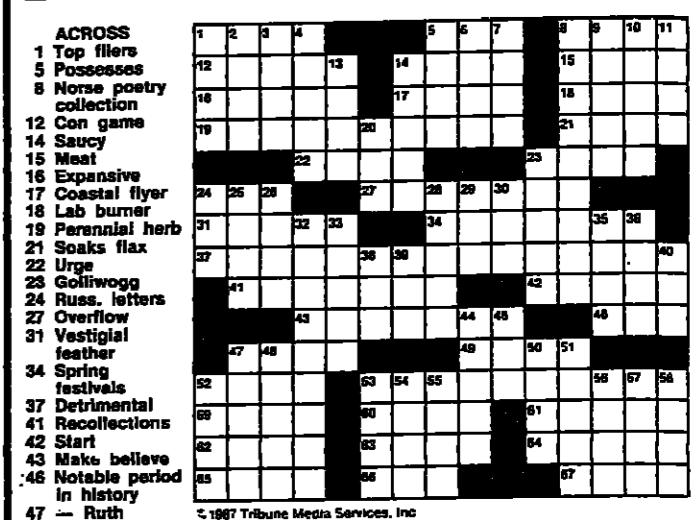
Group six sees unfashionable Wales needing a maximum two points from its remaining two away games to eliminate favoured Denmark and Czechoslovakia and reach the finals of a major championships for the first time since 1958.

A draw in Copenhagen on Wednesday would virtually take Wales through, eliminating the Danes. Wales could then afford to lose by two goals in Prague next month and still make the

finals. But Wales' small squad has been robbed of one of its key players at the most crucial time in the qualifying competition, goalkeeper Neville Southall.

Southall, one of the world's finest keepers who plays for English League champion Everton, has a back injury and the job of trying to keep out the dangerous Danish forwards now falls either to Eddie Niedzwiecki who has made just one international appearance, or Tony Norman, who has only three caps.

THE Daily Crossword by Sidney L. Robbins



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

10 "Inferno"	11 Oh, woe!	12 Fragrance	13 Fragrance	14 Hidden	15 Hidden
16 Jeweler	17 Jeweler	18 Jeweler	19 Jeweler	20 Jeweler	21 Jeweler
22 Energy source	23 Expenses	24 Melancholy	25 Svelte	26 Strategem	27 Opportunist
28 Aberration	29 Adonis	30 Anti-hero	31 Asperges	32 Soot pigment	33 Worship
34 Spring	35 Thomy bush	36 Litigant	37 Competitive	38 Compulsive	39 Train stop;
37 Instrumental	38 Taut	40 Abnormal	41 Chemical	42 Academical	43 Adventure
41 Confections	42 Start	43 Make believe	44 Presidential monogram	45 OTIS ALADDIN	46 Sirens
42 Start	43 Make believe	44 Presidential monogram	45 OTIS ALADDIN	46 Sirens	47 Elephants
44 Presidential monogram	45 OTIS ALADDIN	46 Sirens	47 Elephants	48 Blackleah	49 Singing syllables
45 OTIS ALADDIN	46 Sirens	47 Elephants	48 Blackleah	49 Singing syllables	50 Charles' dog
46 Sirens	47 Elephants	48 Blackleah	49 Singing syllables	50 Charles' dog	51 Leaves port
47 Elephants	48 Blackleah	49 Singing syllables	50 Charles' dog	51 Leaves port	52 Chin. money
48 Blackleah	49 Singing syllables	50 Charles' dog	51 Leaves port	52 Chin. money	53 Cupid
49 Singing syllables	50 Charles' dog	51 Leaves port	52 Chin. money	53 Cupid	54 Cupids' tools
50 Charles' dog	51 Leaves port	52 Chin. money	53 Cupid	54 Cupids' tools	55 Blackleah

FIRST RACE 3.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight	Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Farhan Falih Qudh	Elsiezie	Owner	A. Amarah	56	1- A. Jaber and Bakheet	Wardh	Owner	George	54.5
2- Daly Bashir Shaeil	A. Etzawrahri	Owner	A. Jaber	54.5	2- Ghaleb Haddadin	B. El Reeh	Owner	A. Jaber	53
3- Thamer Hazez El Herdeed	Banoun	Owner	Yousef	54.5	3- Khalil Haddadin	A. El Maha	Owner	Adrian Rasheed	53
4- Mamdouh Mohammad Khalil	J. Brayat	Owner	J. Brayat	53	4- Samy Yacoub Madros	A. El Fawaris	Owner	Rasheed	53
5- Saleh A. El Karem	J. Brayat	Owner	Mwakal	50	5- Ghaleb A. Jaber	Rabba	Owner	Ahmad	53
6- Aly Mahmood Malaemm	M. Mikhrid	Owner	Khalil	50	6- Mamdhur F.A. Jnab	T. El Saad	Owner	Rohani	53
7- Ahmad A. El Azeem Marley	I. Acab	Owner	Rabobah	50	7- Mamdhur F.A. Jnab	Rohani	Owner	Dafallah	51.5
8- Tayseer Rahal	Rafeef	Owner	Kasim	48.5	8- Mamdhur El Hadeed	Sabalan	Owner	Abbas	50
9- Nawaf Malouh El Faiez	Shan	Owner	A. Majdy	48.5	9- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Fozan	Owner	Fawaz	48.5
10- Majdy Dawesh El Bakheet	Rafeef	Owner	A. Majdy	48.5	10- H.H				

Syria, N. Yemen and Tunisia to get \$90m loans

KUWAIT (OPECNA) — The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) is to extend about \$90 million in loans to three Arab countries. Syria will receive \$62.2 million, and two loans to finance an irrigation project in the Al Ghab and Al-Ashrafiyah plains (\$53.3 million) and for the expansion of a power generating station (\$8.8 million).

The loans bring total fund assistance to Syria over \$300 million.

North Yemen will receive \$22.3 million to improve transport services in the capital city of Sanaa. This will bring the country's total indebtedness to the

six per cent, and are repayable in 17 to 18 years, including grace periods of up to five years.

Fund Chairman Abdul Latif Al Hammadi signed the credits.

AFESD was established in 1973 with a capital of \$2.8 billion contributed by all Arab countries.

All loans carry annual interest rates ranging between four and

24.1 million. The fourth credit of \$4.6 million is to go to Tunisia to improve its fishery industry. With this loan, total fund assistance to the North African country comes to \$24.1 million.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6445/55	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar	West German marks
One U.S. dollar	1.3046/51	Canadian dollar	1.8220/27	Dutch guilders
2.0497/0507	2.0497/0507	West German marks	1.5120/30	Swiss francs
1.5120/30	1.5120/30	Dutch guilders	37.87/90	Belgian francs
6.0690/0715	6.0690/0715	Swiss francs	1314/1315	French francs
1314/1315	1314/1315	Belgian francs	144/0515	Italian lira
144/0515	144/0515	French francs	6.3900/50	Japanese yen
6.6550/6600	6.6550/6600	Italian lira	6.9850/9900	Swedish crowns
6.9850/9900	6.9850/9900	Japanese yen	459.35/459.85	Norwegian crowns
459.35/459.85	459.35/459.85	Swedish crowns		Danish crowns
				U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — London share prices dropped quite sharply in late trading after an early fall on Wall Street, where prices were hit by news of a larger than expected U.S. trade deficit for August of \$15.68 billion, dealers said.

The figure compared with a record \$16.47 billion gap in July and market forecasts of around \$14.5 billion and prompted a 2-point fall in the Dow Jones industrial average within the first few minutes of trading.

The U.K. market had opened mixed on Wall Street's rise on Tuesday, but soon tended easier in thin and nervous trading. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was 24.6 points off at 2,325.6.

Equities eased against the background of a weak government bond market, where longer dated issues were marked down around 3% point in the wake of the trade data after holding relatively steady throughout the morning, gilt dealers said.

U.K. economic data Wednesday showed a 0.8 per cent rise in August industrial output and a 0.5 per cent rise in manufacturing output. Although this was better than expected it had little impact on shares or gilts.

Reuters led the way down with a 48p drop to 788 on worries that recent cutbacks by Salomon Inc and other U.S. investment houses could reduce demand for its products, dealers said.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You live to your superiors today. You will have a considerable amount of resourcefulness until shortly after you can rely on your intuition this noon. Later, however, you would be nursing, but later on it may be wise to make no hasty decisions or flaws, so stick to conventional do anything which might upset methods which are reliable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) If you get some promises out of follow the wishes of your family the way this morning, you'll have created more harmony at home, a satisfied feeling all day. Try to do this is a good time to do an important job.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) If you're loyal to an associate and this morning is a good time to take back his ideas, you'll get more sense of correspondence and other cooperation in the future. Be sure to communicate, whether for to do your share of the work.

BUSINESS or personal reasons.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) As you can reach points of agreement opportunity to make more money in with others quickly right now, so the future will present itself try to impress your ideas on as

Tonight is a good time to work on many people as possible improving your budget.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) GET-

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to ting into some new social situations

JUL. 21) Quiet talks with good will make you very happy, but

friends at lunch can yield some don't be extravagant. Be sure to

ideas which will benefit everyone drive with great care.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Make a

He or she will find much hap-

private plan for business success in pieces in helping others to achieve

the days ahead, but don't worry their goals, and will gain a great

about the details until later. The education

should be shown along the lines of

YODA (Aug. 22 to Sept. 21) Social work or other organizations

make some plans for your social which require a lot of contact with

them, but don't go out tonight; stay the public.

**

The Stars impel: they do not

compel." What you make of your

life is a good time to handle life is largely up to you!

Horoscopes which could be damaging © 1987, McNaught Synd.

NOT attended. Be more atten-

tion.

PICTURES: © 1987, McNaught Synd.

Casualties mount in battle for rebel-controlled Jaffna

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil rebels have killed 57 Indian soldiers including a colonel and wounded 176 in the battle for the guerrilla stronghold of Jaffna and other clashes, Sri Lankan state radio reported on Wednesday.

It said 280 guerrillas had been killed.

A Sri Lankan military spokesman said the main force of Indian troops reached the outskirts of Jaffna on Wednesday after a day of fierce fighting and was poised to capture the town.

Security forces were put on alert in Colombo in case of retribution by guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a police spokesman said.

The Indian troops, backed by tanks and armoured personnel carriers, were reported re-grouping for a final assault on the town, which could come at any moment.

Paratroopers dropped on the university campus were reported already fighting inside the town itself.

The military spokesman said details were sketchy but there appeared to be a relative drop in

the level of fighting in the last few hours.

He likened this to "the calm before the storm."

He said the rebels were armed with mortars, machineguns, rocket-propelled grenades and landmines.

Indian troops launched the offensive on Saturday after the Tigers killed more than 200 Sinhalese in a new wave of communal clashes.

On the eastern front, state radio said, rebels attacked an Indian military camp near Batticaloa Airport on Tuesday night but were repulsed.

India, with a large Tamil population of its own, sent troops to enforce a July 29 peace pact aimed at ending a four-year conflict between Tamil separatists and majority Sinhalese.

No independent confirmation of the casualty figures, disputed by the rebels, was available. All

journalists were barred from going to Jaffna.

In Colombo a police spokesman said: "We anticipate trouble from terrorists and have stepped up security." He declined to give further details.

Military analysts said the Indian High Command might find it difficult to support their forces in Jaffna with armour because of the town's narrow streets and side lanes.

Jaffna was an independent Tamil kingdom until the Portuguese took it in 1619. The Dutch captured the city in 1658 after a three-month siege but surrendered it to the British in 1796.

Travellers from Jaffna told reporters they saw two bridges destroyed by the LTTE on Tuesday between Karainagar and Ponnai, and near Kalkattivu, to delay the advance of Indian forces.

They said they counted 28 Indian bodies sprawled by the university compound.

The Indian navy has sunk four boats suspected of gun-running in the narrow Palk Strait between India and Sri Lanka after they were ready to be imposed in the Philippines whenever President Corazon Aquino wants.

"It is in our shelves — the plan. When the time comes ... we will just pick the plan from the shelf and say this is the plan Mrs. President," Mr. Ietto said.

Mrs. Aquino, who has made the restoration of democracy a major goal, said on Monday there was no need for emergency rule but for the first time stopped short of rejecting it outright.

Under the new constitution, a declaration of martial law by Mrs. Aquino must be backed by congress within 48 hours.

Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos, in a related move, shifted operational control over the military from Manila to regional centres to give the military a free hand against the rebels.

Mrs. Aquino said Wednesday the government was ready for any new coup attempt and was open to renewed talks with Communist rebels after they hinted they were prepared to resume contacts.

7 injured in Manila hotel blast

MANILA (Agencies) — A powerful bomb wrecked part of an international hotel in Manila on Wednesday, injuring seven people, as the Philippines' top defence official said martial law could be enacted at any time.

The bomb tore apart a side entrance to the Manila Garden Hotel in the city's business district at about 12:30 p.m. in what police called "a well-planned attack."

Police said seven people received minor injuries.

No one had claimed responsibility for the blast but police and government officials suggested the Communist New People's Army (NPA) may have planted the bomb in a significant departure from its normal "no terrorism" policy.

"Within the next 24 hours we should have a real suspect," Armed Forces spokesman Col. Oscar Florendo told reporters.

Defence Secretary Rafael Ietto told provincial civic and military leaders on Tuesday that martial law was ready to be imposed in the Philippines whenever President Corazon Aquino wants.

"It is in our shelves — the plan. When the time comes ... we will just pick the plan from the shelf and say this is the plan Mrs. President," Mr. Ietto said.

Mrs. Aquino, who has made the restoration of democracy a major goal, said on Monday there was no need for emergency rule but for the first time stopped short of rejecting it outright.

The Nationalist's Central Standing Committee reached the decision at a meeting presided over by President Chiang Ching-Kuo, the party chairman, the party said in a news release.

Taiwan citizens, with the exception of military personnel and civil servants, will be allowed to visit relatives on the Chinese mainland, the party said, adding that further details will be worked out by the executive Yuan, or cabinet.

The announcement said the new policy was reached because of "humanitarian concerns" and will not change the Nationalist's anti-Communist policy and determination to recover the mainland.

Several private groups composed primarily of native Taiwanese, who constitute the overwhelming majority of Taiwan's population of 19.5 million, also have called for lifting the travel ban to mainland China, where they trace their ancestral and cultural roots.

Door closed on Tibet

PEKING (R) — China announced on Wednesday that foreigners were barred from visiting Tibet, where anti-Chinese rioting broke out this month, unless they had special permission or were part of organised tour groups.

"Tibet will not receive tourists or visitors for the time being except for those with permission and tourist groups with signed contracts," a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman told reporters. She declined further comment.

In Lhasa, a senior Tibetan government official urged individual foreign tourists already there to leave the region.

"We are emphasising that foreign visitors are welcome but because of the special situation we are strongly advising (individual) foreign tourists to leave," Yu Wuzhen, head of the Regional Foreign Affairs Office, said by telephone.

"They will be welcome later," Mr. Yu added. He declined to say when.

One tourist just back from Lhasa, where the economy is becoming more and more dependent on tourism, said hotels were emptying of foreigners.

"Individual travellers are leaving Lhasa gradually after finishing their sightseeing," Mr. Yu said.

COLUMNS 7&8

Widow's attempt to commit suttee foiled

NEW DELHI (R) — A 60-year-old Indian widow tried to burn herself to death on her husband's funeral pyre on Tuesday evening but was stopped by police. The woman was already on the pyre in a village in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh when police intervened, the Press Trust of India said on Wednesday. The news agency said villagers tried to persuade her not to commit suttee, regarded by some as a Hindu's final act of fidelity, but she told them it was her 70-year-old husband's wish. The funeral went ahead, with the woman held under "police protection." The ancient but outlawed Indian practice of suttee sprang into prominence last month after an 18-year-old widow died in the flames of her husband's funeral pyre. At first few voices were raised against her death in the western state of Rajasthan, but a tide of anger later swept India. Police arrested 46 people connected with her self-immolation and her 15-year-old brother was charged with murder.

Judge fines \$10,000 after losing patience

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP) — A federal judge has fined the president of A.H. Robins Co. \$10,000 for the company's failure to follow a court order and ruled the president pay the sum out of his own pocket. Robins filed for protection from creditors under the U.S. bankruptcy code in August 1985 due to thousands of lawsuits by women all around the world alleging injuries from the use of Robins' "Dalkon shield" intrauterine device for birth control. U.S. District Judge Robert R. Merhige said he wanted to end the Richmond-based pharmaceutical company's attitude of offering "excuse after excuse after excuse after excuse." Judge Merhige called Robins remiss in failing to seek recovery of every dollar it is owed by some employees. He told the company during a daylong hearing to fire employees who refuse to cooperate. Judge Merhige gave Robins 10 days to appear his contempt-of-court ruling, which included the fine against President E. Claiborne Robins Jr. Robins violated the judge's order of August 1986 that required it to recover about \$8 million in illegal payments of pre-bankruptcy debts. While there was no evidence the company's president knew a court order was not being followed, Judge Merhige said Robins was to pay the money from his own pocket because "he suffers from the failure of the people under him."

Granny fights her way into records book

LONDON (R) — Don't meddle with 90-year-old grandmothers, especially American Lucille "killer" Thomson — she is the oldest person to win a black belt in Judo. Thomson, from Danville, Illinois, has earned herself a place in the Guinness Book of Records alongside Canadian toddler Westley Ciaramella, at the age of four a black belt holder at the other end of the judo scale. The latest edition contains about 15,000 world records, ranging from big-time bubble-gum blowing (55.8 cm or 22 inches in diameter) to heavy-duty teeth extraction (2,000,744 during a 36-year career). The 1988 British edition, to be published later this month, features about 3,000 new title-holders. They include champions such as U.S. pop singer Madonna topping the record charts in an unprecedented 26 countries with her album True Blue, British entrepreneur Richard Branson completing the first trans-Atlantic crossing in a hot air balloon, and American boxer Mike Tyson becoming the youngest heavyweight champion of the world at 20 years and 145 days. A less enviable record went to New York Financier Ivan Boesky for the stiffest fine imposed by a court: \$100 million for illegal insider dealing. The world's oldest documented people? John Evans (110) and Anna Williams (114), both alive and well in the Welsh city of Swansea. The greatest feat of memory? Hideaki Tomoyori, 53, from Yokohama, recited the factor PI to 40,000 decimal places in 17 hours, 21 minutes.

Taiwan party approves visit to mainland China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — The ruling Nationalist Party on Wednesday approved lifting a 10-year-old ban on travel by Taiwan citizens to Communist China to allow reunions of families separated since the Chinese civil war.

The Nationalist's Central Standing Committee reached the decision at a meeting presided over by President Chiang Ching-Kuo, the party chairman, the party said in a news release.

Taiwan citizens, with the exception of military personnel and civil servants, will be allowed to visit relatives on the Chinese mainland, the party said, adding that further details will be worked out by the executive Yuan, or cabinet.

The announcement said the new policy was reached because of "humanitarian concerns" and will not change the Nationalist's anti-Communist policy and determination to recover the mainland before they die.

But the change is widely viewed as a major step in the policy of no contact with mainland China. The policy was first enforced by the late Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, the president.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etelson

1 Parent	2 Grandmother	3 Without	4 Dressage	5 Possible danger
5 Played a role	6 Reptiles	7 Once again	8 Casserole	9 Cosset
10 Gr. marketplace	11 Scruff	12 Spokes for	102 Convince	103 Penny
15 Script	16 Worms	14 Brooms	104 Windup group	105 Windflower
19 Words	20 Newspaper	13 Stars a new man	106 Harf	107 Trifles
23 Notice	24 notices	14 Stars a new hand	108 Spread to dry	109 Begone!
27 Shore birds	28 Highly energetic one	15 — de la Plata	110 Oriental sunse	111 Bonfire
31 Shore birds	32 Highly energetic one	16 — de la Plata	112 Chinese	113 Assaults
35 Starfish	36 Highly energetic one	17 — de la Plata	114 Carpentry	115 Begone!
37 Tako and —	38 Highly energetic one	18 — de la Plata	116 Hardy girl	117 Handicraft
22 Grammar no-no	23 Highly energetic one	19 — de la Plata	118 Foot the bill	119 Harem rooms
26 Cognac	27 Highly energetic one	20 — de la Plata	120 Chinese gold	121 Mars
30 Cognac	31 Highly energetic one	21 — de la Plata	121 Sub-lease	122 Laughter —
34 Cleres	35 Highly energetic one	22 — de la Plata	122 Drainage	123 Laughing —
38 Biblical	39 Highly energetic one	23 — de la Plata	124 Drunken	125 Drunken —
42 Household	43 Highly energetic one	24 — de la Plata	126 Escale	126 Drunken scores
46 Household	47 Highly energetic one	25 — de la Plata	127 Hawaiian goose	128 Asseessor
50 Household	51 Highly energetic one	26 — de la Plata		
54 Household	55 Highly energetic one	27 — de la Plata		
58 Household	59 Highly energetic one	28 — de la Plata		
62 Household	63 Highly energetic one	29 — de la Plata		
66 Household	67 Highly energetic one	30 — de la Plata		
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210 Household	211 Highly energetic one	66 — de la Plata		
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222 Household	223 Highly energetic one	69 — de la Plata		
226 Household	227 Highly energetic one	70 — de la Plata		
230 Household	231 Highly energetic one	71 — de la Plata		
234 Household	235 Highly energetic one	72 — de la Plata		
238 Household	239 Highly energetic one	73 — de la Plata		
242 Household	243 Highly energetic one	74 — de la Plata		
246				